

THE NEW FALL SILHOUETTES

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women.

Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.

Lady Duff-Gordon's American establishments are at Nos. 37 and 39 West Fifty-seventh street, New York, and No. 1400 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

Demureness, a Note of the New Season, Is Revealed in This Typical Costume.



The Panel-like Sash of Brocade, in Striking Contrast with the Dark Silk of the Model, Will Be a Feature of the More Elaborate Gowns.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
(“LUCILE”)

STRAIGHT and narrow is the way of the first Fall costume. I refer to its silhouette.

The silhouette is of prime importance. Once we considered only the front and back view of a gown. With years comes wisdom. We have discovered that you may not judge correctly of a dress unless you have viewed it from the side. I say, without hesitation, that a woman is only as smart as her silhouette, only as elegant as her silhouette, only as distinguished as her silhouette.

This season the woman hastening past you on her quick morning walk to work, whether it be the work of livelihood earning or the Committee for National Defense or Red Cross activity, might be mistaken by those of less acute vision for a man. For the fashionable woman silhouette has three attributes of a man's. It is long, for the short skirt is now happily merely an unhappy memory. It is narrow. It is wedge-shaped. My readers know that the ideal of manly beauty of figure is the wedge. The broader it is at the shoulders in comparison with the feet, or the narrower at the feet in comparison with the shoulders, the nearer is he to manly perfection of form.

That the new silhouette is a manly one is due, in part, to the narrowness of the skirts. For the skirts grow narrower and narrower. Economy bids them narrow themselves, and they will obey until comfort cries "You have reached the limit." Taste is improving, and we need not fear

a more than tentative return of the hobble. A few extremists may seek to reintroduce it, but they will without doubt fail. They cannot be worn where taste reigns. A contributing factor is the effect of trousers, which effect is secured by gathering the sides of the skirt so that they seem to be caught at the ankle. Another cause for the manly silhouette, or wedge-shaped appearance, is that coats will be made rather loose than snug, and naturally a loose coat would have wider shoulders than a snug one.

The prevalence of dark shades as against the light ones that were prominent last Winter will add emphasis to the manly silhouette of the Winter of 1918-1919. The darker the slimmer is a proverb of clothes.

The straight and narrow silhouette is aided by the device of the long panel. A means to the end of the narrow silhouette is the set-in panel. It is used in effective contrast, both in color and fabric, to the gown it adorns. Brocades will be effectively used as panels and long panel-like sashes. Flowered silks and figured velvets will be employed to lighten what some eyes may regard as the gloom of the one-tone gown.

To secure the long skirt line it is helpful to raise the belt line. Place the belt three inches higher, and naturally the skirt will be three inches longer. While the bodice will be three inches shorter, there will be a distinct gain in the wearer's apparent height. It is probable, then, that the season will be one of abbreviated waist line and added skirt length.

Women Are Confessing Their Hips this Season. Bustles and Bouffant Draperies Are Giving Way to the Natural Lines as Shown in This Model.

